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# Facts

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## NORTHEAST COMMITTEEMEN

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### FORMATION OF NORTHEAST REGIONAL COMMITTEE

A Regional Committee of farmer representatives has been organized in the Northeast to complete the long-established farmer-committee system of community, county, and State committees.

The newly formed Regional Committee, consisting of the chairmen of each of the nine State committees in the area, convened in Boston, October 30, to discuss future activities, especially in connection with the Regional Conference in New York City in December, and to elect officers.

Carl G. Wooster, chairman of the New York State committee, was elected chairman of the Regional Committee, and Ralph Graham, chairman of the New Hampshire State committee, was named by the group as vice-chairman. The work of the two officers is to be closely integrated and they will share authority in speaking for the Regional group and in other activities.

Meeting with the new committee were director A. W. Manchester, assistant director Fred Northrup, Oris Wells, agricultural economist in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in Washington, and J. H. Arnold, senior agricultural economist in the Northeast Division, AAA.

The first meeting of the Regional Committee was chiefly concerned with discussion of the broad agricultural picture in the Northeast Region, and the outlook for changes in the national agricultural situation which may be expected to have important bearing on the farm program in the nine Northeastern States.

Particular attention was also given by the committee and Washington officials to the organization of the Regional Conference in New York City on December 4, 5, and 6, which is to be attended by more than 500 AAA committeemen and officers, Extension specialists, home demonstration leaders, county agents, and representatives of other agricultural groups which carry on activities in the Northeastern States.

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In general, the Regional Committee will serve to coordinate the committee work which has been the foundation of the farm program in the Northeast Region. The committee will deal directly with the State committees and, through the State committees, with county and community committees. It will provide a medium through which farmer-thinking and farmer-interests may be focused and promptly and effectively expressed.

The Regional Committee will also be able to maintain closer contact with the problems and interests of farm people in other Regions. One of its major responsibilities will be to review problems of other parts of the country, to appraise their significance to Northeastern agriculture, and to contribute to a true national agricultural unity based on a just service to the interests of each Region.

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### POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF FRUIT MARKET

Northeast fruit growers can reasonably expect some expansion of their market as a result of recent action of the Argentine Government. The South American country has completely relaxed its exchange restrictions so as to permit the unlimited importation of United States apples and pears up to December 31 of this year, according to the United States Department of Agriculture.

At the beginning of the United States apple and pear export season last year, Argentina (hard-pressed by loss of European markets) established a complete embargo. The restriction was later modified as a result of negotiations which aimed to increase the mutually advantageous interchange of products, but some limitations had been continued until very recently.

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### NATIONAL DEFENSE

*Excerpts from a statement by Chester C. Davis, Agricultural  
Commissioner, Advisory Commission to the Council of National  
Defense*

If we are to be secure, every citizen, our complete industrial organization, and our agricultural groups must be ready to make whatever contribution and sacrifices the future may compel. The mobilization of manpower, the accumulation of planes, tanks and guns, of reserves of foodstuffs and raw materials, are not sufficient in themselves. This country must rearm in spirit and determination. We must cultivate and maintain an indomitable will to defend and preserve our free institutions.

In the marshaling of America's resources for defense the interests of all groups of our society shall be given consideration.

No defense program can succeed if farm prices and farm income are not maintained at the level that will keep the farm plant healthy.

Individual producers and farm leaders, in government and out, should be giving constant attention to the implications of the new economic environment in which agriculture may find itself. But, above all, we must never forget that in face of fast-moving developments throughout the world, our single purpose is to maintain democracy here at whatever cost or sacrifice.

### CONSERVATION MATERIALS INCREASE

Quantities of conservation materials distributed by AAA in the Northeast Region under the 1940 farm program have increased tremendously over previous years, according to reports from the Region's nine States. Superphosphate showed an increase of nearly 11,000 tons, 15 percent more than in 1939. Liming materials increased to 321,061 tons, an increase of 132 percent over the preceding year. The expanding distribution of conservation materials in the Northeast is even more impressive when compared with 1938, the first year these materials were furnished under the program, as shown by the following tabulation:

#### Conservation Materials (Grants-of-Aid)

##### *Superphosphate (20 percent equivalent)*

	1938 - 1939 - 1940		
STATE	1938	1939	1940
Maine	2,885	10,351	11,793
New Hampshire	1,869	9,760	12,521
Vermont	12,421	30,698	22,385
Massachusetts	---	4,354	5,534
Rhode Island	---	495	823
Connecticut	669	1,837	3,232
New York	---	---	20,938
Pennsylvania	721	16,307	7,285
REGION	18,565	73,802	84,511

##### *Liming Materials*

	1938 - 1939 - 1940		
STATE	1938	1939	1940
Maine	9,610	28,692	37,536
New Hampshire	963	16,785	22,594
Vermont	---	20,823	33,037
Massachusetts	---	15,424	25,252
Rhode Island	---	2,765	3,495
Connecticut	2,194	20,343	36,825
New York	---	105,883	277,497
Pennsylvania	2,937	32,793	128,333
REGION	15,704	243,508	564,569

### NORTHEAST COMMITTEEMEN ELECTIONS

Approximately 1,600 farm communities in the Northeast Region's nine States will have completed their annual AAA committeemen elections during the next month.

"It is just as important for farmers to vote in community elections of the agricultural conservation program as it is to vote in town meetings," Thomas Schrieber said recently. (Mr. Schrieber is a committeeman of New Haven County, Conn.)

"This is one of the few nations left on the face of the globe which is still blessed with a democratic form of government. We ought to take full advantage of our opportunities to use democracy, whether it is voting for a president, a governor, a town selectman, or a community conservation committee."



## **CONTRAST OF AMERICAN AND CANADIAN FARMERS**

Benefits which the United States wheat farmer has derived from the farm program are made more striking by contrasting wheat conditions here with the wheat situation in Canada, *AAA Administrator R. M. Evans* recently told 200 farmers and businessmen in Bedford, Pennsylvania.

Lacking a wheat adjustment and loan program such as we have, our northern neighbor is now confronted with the largest wheat supply in its history; a return on wheat that he can sell which averages about 30 cents less than the average return the United States farmer gets on comparable wheat at some distance from the market; a quota system that means a large part of the Canadian wheat cannot be sold at any price; and lack of storage space for wheat that must be carried over.

The Canadian wheat supply for this marketing year is estimated at 834 million bushels. Domestic consumption for the past 10 years has averaged 111 million bushels, so that a surplus of more than 700 million bushels will have to be dealt with. This is enough to supply the imports of the British Isles for 2 or 3 years.

Canadian farmers have already been limited in their early wheat deliveries to 8 bushels for each acre seeded for the current crop. In many cases the greater part of the crop lies in piles in the fields where the thresher left it.

The Canadian price for the wheat that can be sold is only about 50 cents a bushel to farmers in the prairie provinces where most of Canada's wheat is grown.

In contrast, the Canadian farmer can look across the border to the United States farmer who, with the aid of the Government loan and participation payments, can net about 80 cents a bushel.

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## **GUARANTEED WHEAT YIELDS INCREASE IN NORTHEAST**

The yield guaranteed to Northeast Region wheat farmers by the AAA crop insurance program has shown a marked increase during the past 3 years. This increase averages 2.88 bushels per acre in New York, 1.87 bushels per acre in Pennsylvania, and 1.2 bushels per acre in New Jersey.

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## **AAA INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH EXHIBITS**

The results and activities of the AAA program were graphically displayed throughout the Northeast Region at State, county, and community fairs, by use of exhibits which were provided by the Division of Information, supplemented by local material provided by county committees and the State AAA office.

Robert Einstein of the Pennsylvania State office, reports that AAA information was made available in Pennsylvania through these fair exhibits to 708,750 people who attended 50 fairs during the 1940 fair season. In most cases, committeemen and other AAA workers were in attendance at these exhibits and were able to provide additional information to the fair patrons.